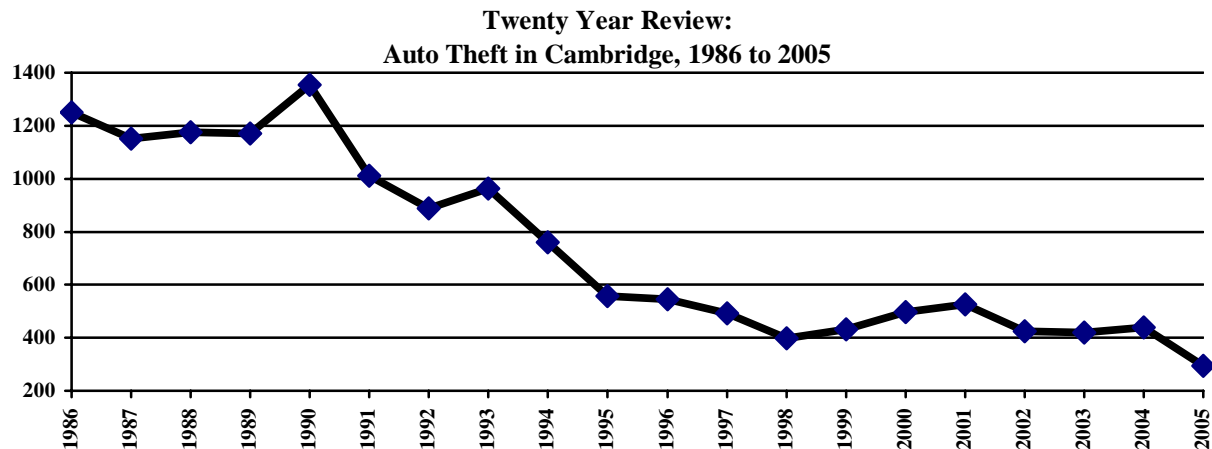


AUTO THEFT

is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. This offense category includes the theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. This definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access.



438 reported in 2004 • 295 reported in 2005

In the mid-1970's there were nearly 3,000 cars reported stolen yearly in Cambridge. These figures declined to approximately 1,700 thefts in the 1980's, and to less than 1,000 thefts yearly in the 1990's. Today's figures represent one of the most dramatic reported decreases in a single crime type. The decline can be attributed to the virtual elimination of "chop shops" and interstate auto theft rings, crackdowns on insurance fraud, advances in automobile security, and new technology that enables patrol officers to quickly check a vehicle's registry listing and determine if it is stolen.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF AUTO THEFT

Neighborhood	2003	2004*	2005*	CHANGE 04-05	% OF TOTAL
East Cambridge	43	56	34	-40%	11%
M.I.T. Area	12	15	4	-73%	1%
Inman/Harrington	56	45	23	-47%	8%
Area 4	58	43	26	-40%	9%
Cambridgeport	69	56	38	-32%	13%
Mid-Cambridge	36	36	34	-6%	12%
Riverside	33	26	14	-46%	5%
Agassiz	15	10	11	+10%	4%
Peabody	25	53	26	-51%	9%
West Cambridge	30	38	30	-21%	10%
North Cambridge	32	41	41	N/A	14%
Cambridge Highlands	5	12	5	-58%	1%
Strawberry Hill	5	5	8	+60%	3%
Total	419	436	294	-32%	100%

*Please note that two incidents in 2004 and one in 2005 took place at unknown locations, therefore they are not included in this breakdown.

In 2005 Cambridge reported its lowest number of stolen cars in over 20 years. The North Cambridge neighborhood reported the highest number of thefts. Cambridgeport, which reported the highest number of thefts in 2004, managed to cut the number of thefts by a third yet still reported the second highest number of auto thefts in

2005. Multiple incidents were reported on Green, Magazine, Massachusetts Ave, Memorial Drive, Pearl, and River Streets. Mid-Cambridge followed with the second highest number of incidents in 2005. The neighborhood's totals were relatively consistent from the previous year. The majority of the thefts occurred in repeat locations on Bigelow, Cambridge, Harvard, Kirkland, Trowbridge, and Ware Streets. Although auto thefts in Strawberry Hill totals increased by 60%, they only had three new incidents. The number of auto thefts in this neighborhood only make up of 3% of the total number of cars stolen in all of Cambridge. Peabody saw a decrease of 51% in the number of stolen cars from 2004 to 2005.

The first quarter of the year saw the least amount of incidents with only 60 cars stolen. The second quarter of the year, from April to June saw the most incidents with 82 auto thefts. The summer months of July, August, and September saw 78 cars stolen, while the last quarter from October to December saw 75. The month of September saw the most incidents with 36 (12%) reported stolen vehicles.

MAKES AND MODELS

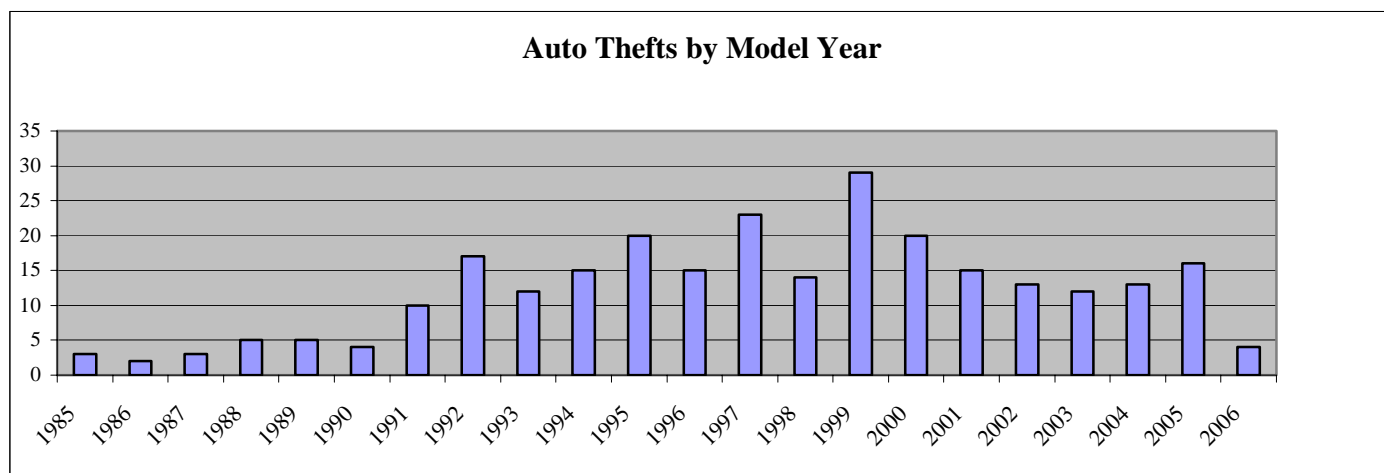
Hondas were by far the most commonly stolen automobiles of 2005, constituting 32% of all reports. Toyotas and Fords, approximately 30 incidents each, came in second and third place. This information is consistent with historical and national trends, as Hondas are the most commonly stolen vehicles nationwide. As is clear in the table below, the top five vehicle model types stolen mirrors the top five stolen statewide in Massachusetts.

The most targeted model this year was the Honda Civic, followed by the Accord and the Acura Integra. The Toyota Camry, traditionally a commonly stolen model, was just behind the Integra. These particular models are stolen more than any other due to several factors. These cars are some of the most commonly *owned* models in the nation, making them more widely available. Statistical probability alone would place them near the top of the theft list. Car thieves tend to look for average-cost, commonly owned, inconspicuous cars. High-priced luxury cars are not stolen very often because they are too easy for someone to spot, and are more likely to be equipped with expensive alarm systems. Scooters have also become a more common target, making up 2% of the total motor vehicles stolen in 2005, as they have grown in popularity in recent years.

TOP FIVE STOLEN MAKES & MODELS STOLEN			
Makes		Model type	
Honda	95	Honda Civic*+	57
Ford	29	Honda Accord*+	33
Toyota	28	Acura Integra+	13
Acura	18	Toyota Camry+	12
Chevrolet	7	Toyota Corolla*+	9
*Also in the National Top Five			
+Also in the Massachusetts Top Five			

Analysis of the age of stolen vehicles shows that the highest demand is for cars that are eight to nine years old. Thieves looking for transportation steal these cars because they are inconspicuous. Thieves looking to make a profit target these years because parts for these cars are in higher demand. The other high cluster, with 1999-2002 cars, represents "joyriders," looking for newer models to increase their sense of status, and thieves intending to sell the entire car for profit. The table below shows the incidence of auto theft by year of the model.

AUTO THEFT RECOVERIES



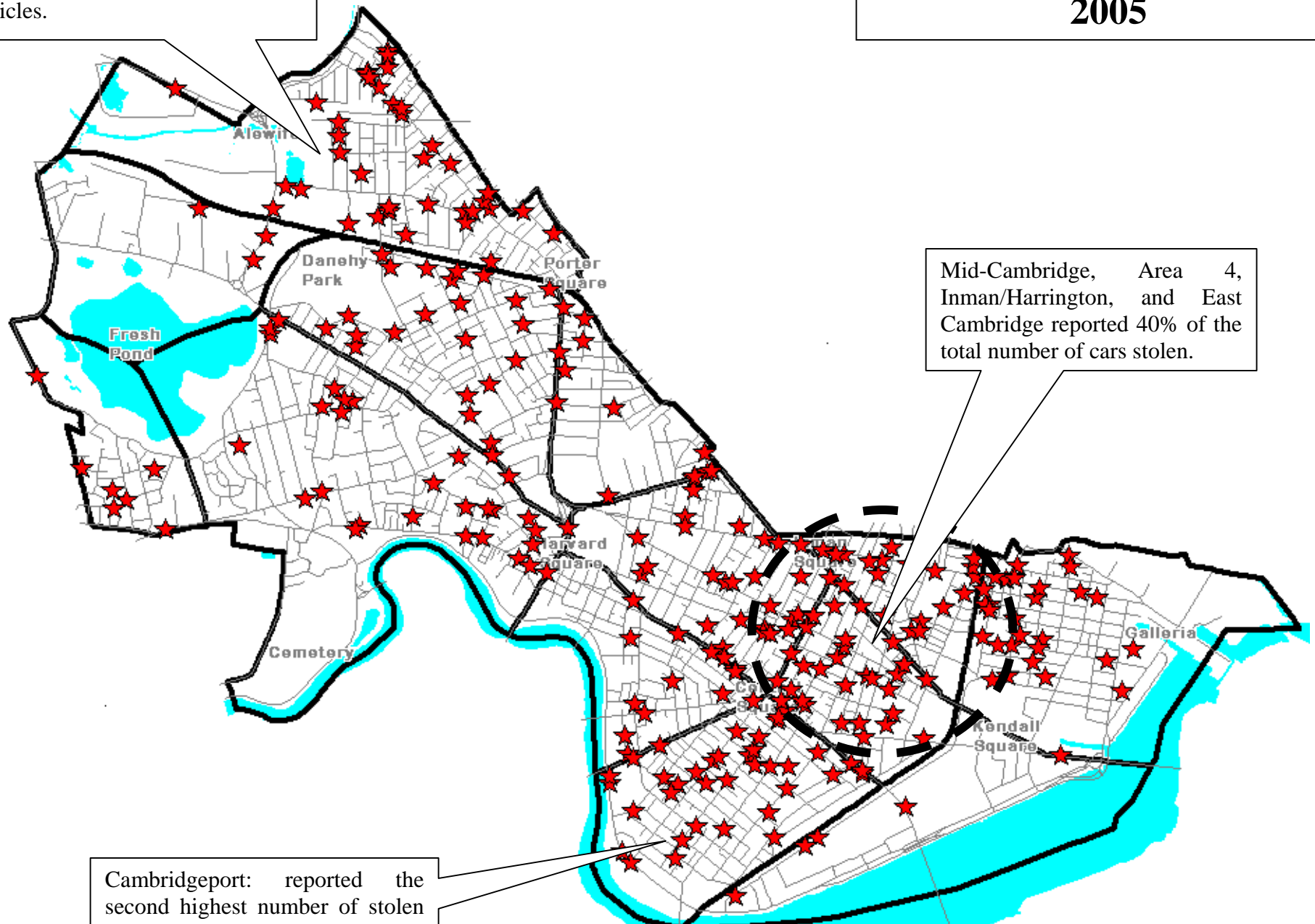
Approximately 50% of the cars reported stolen in 2005 have been recovered to date. The majority of the recovered cars were located throughout Cambridge and Boston. Autos were also recovered in as far away as New Hampshire and Tennessee. When damage is reported on recovered vehicles, it is most commonly ignition damage and body damage. Seven cars were fully or partially stripped for parts, and tires were missing from 10 cars. Radios and/or stereos were missing in 7 vehicles. Note that additional information regarding parts stolen from vehicles that were not themselves stolen can be found in the Larceny section of this report. The following table shows a breakdown of recovery locations.

Boston	
Dorchester	7
Roxbury	4
Hyde Park	3
Allston/Brighton	2
Mattapan	1
Unknown/Other	0
Cambridge	
North Cambridge	10
Unknown	9
Mid-Cambridge	8
Inman/Harrington	6
Area 4	5
Cambridgeport	5
Peabody	4
Riverside	2
Agassiz	2
West Cambridge	2
Cambridge Highlands	2
Strawberry Hill	2
East Cambridge	1
MIT Area	1
Other Cities	
Somerville	10
Everett	5
Medford	3
Lynn	2
Brockton	2
Framingham	2
Chelsea	5
Watertown	2
Woburn	2
Other	36

Protect your car!! Please see the Protect Yourself section starting on page 137 for tips on how you can protect your car from auto theft.

North Cambridge: reported the most incidents with 41 stolen vehicles.

Auto Theft in Cambridge 2005



Mid-Cambridge, Area 4, Inman/Harrington, and East Cambridge reported 40% of the total number of cars stolen.

Cambridgeport: reported the second highest number of stolen vehicles, with 38 reports.